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JANUARY 20, 2011

3rd HBCT gets new Commander



Sgt. Ben Hutto 3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Colonel Johnnie L. Johnson Jr. took command of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Col. Pete Jones in a change of command ceremony at the National Infantry Museum's parade field, Jan. 13.

Colonel Johnson assumes command of one of the most deployed units in the Army.

"I am proud and honored to join this team of distinguished professionals who embody the highest standards of service to our nation," said Col. Johnson.

Colonel Johnson is no stranger to Fort Benning. Since June 2010 he has served as chief, Commanders Initiatives Group at the Center of Excellence's Maneuver Headquarters.

"Today, I am personally excited to return to the Marne Division for a third command tour," said Col. Johnson.

Colonel Jones will be taking on a new position at the Pentagon.

See COC

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Sgt. Ben Hutto

The commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo passes the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd ID's guidon to Col. Johnnie L. Johnson Jr. during the 3rd HBCT's change of command ceremony at the National Infantry Museum's parade field, Jan. 13. Johnson assumed command of the brigade from Col. Pete Jones.

MPs continue with police to issue tickets

Kevin Larson Fort Stewart Public Affairs

on the highways crossing Fort Stewart's training area will see local police agencies helping to patrol those roads starting late January.

Fort Stewart, the Georgia State Patrol, and the sheriff departof Bryan, Chatham, Evans, Liberty, Long, and Tattnall counties will sign an agreement on Jan. 26 creating new jurisdictions on Highways 144 and 119.

From that day on, the state patrol and sheriff departments will have the authority to conduct traffic stops and issue tickets on the Fort Stewart portions of those highways.

"Drivers on Highways 144 and 119 need to know that the Georgia State Patrol and the county sheriff departments can now pull over and ticket drivers for violations starting Jan. 26," said Fort Stewart garrison commander COL Kevin Milton.

agreement between Fort Stewart and local law enforcement agencies ensures a safe and secure environment for Soldiers, Army Families, Army employees, and all who travel on the highways. Having local law enforcement helping to patrol on the highways has additional benefits for the installation, Col. Milton said.

"We are pleased to enter in this partner-

ship; it is further proof the Army Community Covenant is Drivers who commute alive and well here at Fort Stewart and coastal

Georgia," he said. Drivers expressed concerns about speed limit changes on the highways, said Col. Milton, but they remain essentially unchanged. The only stretch of highway that will see a reduction is the portion of Highway 144 that runs past the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team com-

"The only real change is around the cantonment area, from Gate 5 out past the new 4th Brigade site," he said. "There, the speed limit is reduced from 45 down to 35."

The speed limit goes back to 45 mph at the Pass and Permit Office, and then climbs to 55 just past Holbrook Pond. From the Glennville-side (west) of Fort Stewart to just before Highway 144 intersects Highway 119, the speed limit will be 55. From the Pembroke side of Fort Stewart (north) to just before Highway 119 intersects Highway 144, the speed limit will be 55. The speed limit in the area where the two highways intersect to the traffic light near Gate 5 will be 45 mph.

The retrocession of jurisdiction memorandum of agreement signing ceremony will be 3:30 p.m., Jan. 26, at Club Stewart.

Deadline for retroactive stop loss special pay extended

U.S. Department of Defense Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense

The deadline for eligible servicemembers, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay has been extended to March 4, 2011, allowing personnel more time to apply for the benefits they've earned under the program guidelines.

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution signed by President Obama, providing funding for federal government operations through March 4, 2011.

"There was a surge of applicants as we approached our earlier deadline, but there may still be more out

See STOP LOSS

there who have yet to apply," said Lernes Hebert, director, Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management. "We are pleased that this extension was included in the continuing resolution which will give those remaining the opportunity to apply as we continue to work through the current applica-

The RSLSP was established to compensate for the hardships military members encountered when their service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss Authority between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each

4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd ID

MUHAMMADI, Iraq - Soldiers with the 3rd

Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Advise

and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division,

facilitated the delivery of 80 desks to students

of the Athathib School in Muhammadi, Jan.

Commander's Small Scale Projects fund dur-

ing Operation New Dawn. The CSSP, a subset

of Commander's Emergency Response

Program, offers more flexibility than its pre-

decessor which can take up to three weeks to

be approved. The CSSP, on the other hand,

authorizes a subordinate command battalion

to execute projects up to \$5,000 without com-

Each subordinate battalion is authorized to

The delivery was in conjunction with the

Matthew Burrell

mand approval.

full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

- Page 11A

Vanguard Soldiers find worthy causes



Lt. Col Richard Cleveland, commander, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, speaks with the Iraqi contractor in charge of Humanitarian Aid in the Hit District, Jan. 5.

draw and keep on-hand up to \$50,000 worth of CSSP funds. The humanitarian purchases must follow the same rules as CERP projects, but allow the battalion to react to civil vulnerabilities that could affect the overall security in the area. It provides a timely and effective means of reaching out to the local populace. While B. Co., 3rd Bn, 7th Inf. Regt. provided

the funding and logistical support for the mission, the Iraqis provided everything else, including on-site security at the school.

See VANGUARD Page 11A

Military reception center renovated at Savannah airport



Nancy Gou

Dick Falcone, the USO volunteer coordinator at the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport, thanks business representatives for the upgrades to the Military Reception Center at a Dec. 16 2010 ceremony at the airport.

Nancy Gould Hunter Public Affairs

Private Malcolm Shabazz relaxed and watched television at the newly renovated Military Reception Center, Dec. 16 at the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport after arriving in Savannah from training. The young Soldier had a few hours to kill before reporting to duty with the 1st Brigade Combat Team at Fort Stewart.

Located away from the bustle and traffic at the airport, the Military Reception Center is like other USO centers in airports worldwide. It offers service members, veterans and their Families a 'touch of home' when their flights are delayed and gives them a place to unwind while travelling to their assignments in the Coastal Empire.

Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Jose Aguilar said that he has visited USO lounges at various locations worldwide. "They're a welcome site," he said, "for Soldiers, a home away from home."

But unlike the other centers, the Savannah USO reception center was the first USO center slated for a makeover, thanks to volunteers from Lowe's Home Improvement Center in Savannah, who painted the room and replaced the carpet. Whelan's Home Furnishings donated new, but slightly damaged, furniture that had been repaired, along with other items such as freezers, lamps and chairs. The Coastal Bank and the GeoVista Credit Union also made monetary contributions.

Savannah is the first location renovated, said Mary Austin, president of the Georgia USO. "The companies responsible went above and beyond in their generosity and commitment," she said, at a short ceremony held to celebrate the upgrades. "I thank the USO for their leadership in Savannah and I thank the wonderful volunteers who serve here."

Patrick Graham, executive director of the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport also thanked the USO volunteers for their service to the military at the airport and for providing a warm, inviting environment where his military customers can get away and relax.

"The reception area is an oasis for Airmen who come here to nap, rest and enjoy coffee and refreshments," said Air Force Col. Jesse Simmons, commander, 165th Airlift Wing. "We deploy often in small groups so we take advantage of this service," he said. "We appreciate all the things the USO does for us."

10th Transportation Company inactivated

Sgt. Patience Okhuofu 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 3rd ID Public Affairs

The 10th Transportation Company, 260th Quartermaster Battalion was inactivated at a ceremony held at the Tominac Fitness Center, Hunter Army Airfield on Jan 13. The inactivation ceremony is a time-honored ritual during which the company's colors are formally retired.

10th Transportation Company was activated on 16 Oct. 2006 at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga and since its activation the unit has participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and most recently deployed to Haiti in support of Operation Unified Response following a devastating earthquake that injured and killed over 500,000 and left approximately 1,000,000 homeless

"The company has had three commanders since its activation here at Hunter Army Airfield and it is an honor to be the last commander of this great company said Capt. Stephen P. Lambe, commander, 10th Transportation Company. I was doing the math last night and discovered that almost 40 percent of their time here has been

spent overseas whether in Kuwait, Iraq or Haiti."

When asked how he feels seeing the unit being inactivated, Sergeant 1st Class Andrew Durant, first sergeant 10th Transportation Company, said "It is a bittersweet moment. I have been the first sergeant for 17 months and these Soldiers are Family. However, I believe my commander and I have trained these Soldiers well. We are proud of them and I know they are moving on to do greater things for the Army and for the country."

"Ghost Riders can always be counted on said Lt. Col. Jimmy Brown, commander, 260th Quartermaster battalion. Since I assumed office as the commander of this battalion, I have always been proud of the professionalism and team spirit the company displayed when it comes to getting things done. It was an honor to have been a part of the 10th Transportation Company and I wish you all the very best."

A majority of the Soldiers from the 10th Transportation Company will be going to other Army installations in the United States and across the globe. Some of them will remain here in 260th Quartermaster Battalion. Their equipment will be divided amongst units that are in need of them.



Pfc. James Richardso

Captain Stephen P. Lambe, commander, 10th Transportation Company and Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Durant, first sergeant, 10th Transportation Company, furls the Unit's Colors.

Marne Tax Center opens Tuesday

A dedicated and trained staff is ready to prepare and file your tax return at no charge. Your tax return is filed electronically and if a refund is due, you will usually receive it within seven to ten business days. Eligible individuals include active duty military and servicemembers, Family Members, and retirees.

The tax center is open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jan. 26 through April 15. The Fort Stewart office will be located in bldg. 709, the same building as the Legal Assistance Office, at 1791 Gulick Ave. The Hunter office is at bldg. 1211 at the Hunter Legal Center. For more information, call 912-767-1040 (Stewart) or 912-315-3675 (HAAF).

Documents to bring if they apply to you: W2 for all wages received; prior year federal and state income tax return; military ID (self and spouse); receipts for charitable contributions; Social Security Card or memo from the Social Security Administration; property tax receipts; home mortgage interest statement; power of attorney if

necessary; student loan interest statement; proof of dependent care expenses; proof of educational expenses; HUD 1 Statement (if home purchased in 2009/2010); IRA/TSP contribution statements; dividend income statement (e.g. 1099DIV); statements reflecting capital gains/losses; and educator expenses.

Commentary: Political bullies, soft targets

Commentary by Eugenia Guilmartin

In the aftermath of the assassination attempt on Representative Gabrielle Giffords – a shooting spree that killed six people and injured 13 pundits and politicians speculate on shooter Jared Lee Loughner's motives. While political murders are rare, political bullying is not uncommon. In my 2004 study of county officials in California and New York, 54 percent of all participating New York Counties and 85 percent of participating California counties reported having contact with extremist groups of various ideologies in the past five years. These offices were run by staffs that were an average of 80 percent female. They reported threats ranging from physical violence, harassing calls, liens on their property, and challenges to their oaths of office.

of office.

It is no surprise that state and local officials are targets of choice for political bullies. They are accessible to the public, and they often have low or no personal security. Giffords, for example, was at a publicized event at a local supermarket to meet her constituents. This process of target selection follows the principles of "bully theory" rather than classic terrorist tactics. Attackers are not hitting hard targets to topple govern-

ments and instill fear in the public (as we saw on 9/11).

Instead, they attack soft local targets for immediate gratification. Political bullies may adopt terrorist rhetoric, but they are not terrorists in pure form.

So what do we know about political bullies? I developed a predictive model using 2001 survey data of 10,000 Army personnel, who were asked whether they had been asked to join or participate in extremist groups or activities. In short, men were 10 percent likelier to be recruited for extremism than women. Men who thought women would be promoted ahead of them were 4 percent likelier to be recruited than those who did not. And those who perceived they were falling behind professionally, and would not be promoted as high as their performance merited were 9 percent likelier to be recruited. Of all the traits, though, the one that exerted the strongest effect was risk taking, as measured by seat belt use. Those who strongly disagreed with wearing seat belts were 27 percent likelier to be recruited than those who buckled up.

ly disagreed with wearing seat belts were 27 percent likelier to be recruited than those who buckled up.

There are similar indicators that Loughner was an emerging bully with a troubled past. Acquaintances report signs of frustration, risk taking, and being threatened by women. He expressed distrust of the government and challenged the authorities at Pima Community College; had several drug offenses; was

rejected by the military for failing his urinalysis;

authored rambling and conspiratorial posts online;

was reported to have mocked a woman in his writing class and eventually was suspended from college for disruptive behavior. A male classmate told CBS News that "He made a lot of people uncomfortable, especially the girls in the class." There is no evidence currently that political rhetoric activated dormant violent tendencies in Loughner. More likely, Loughner picked a readily accessible soft political target of his aggression to feed his fantasies of self-importance. We do not really know.

And despite the shootings at Fort Hood and Virginia Tech it is unclear what the public should do when they encounter a possible domestic threat. As a country, we are still at the point of "see something... and then what?" with respect to people who may not be terrorists but definitely scare others. The US must develop and publicize a reporting system for Families, teachers, friends and colleagues to get help for those who need it before the next shooting. Framing the tragedy in Arizona as the deadly effect of a political catfight does a grave disservice to all women public officials.

Eugenia K. Guilmartin is the author of several studies on domestic terrorism. She has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford University and is a Military Police Officer in the US Army. The opinions of the author are her own and do not express any official position of the United States Army or the Department of Defense.

Fort Stewart Remembers Dr Martin Luther King Jr

Spc. Michael Adams 3rd Infantry Division Public Affiars

For Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Harrison, an equal opportunity advisor with Third Infantry Division, one of Dr. Martin Luther King's many accomplishments is found among those he serves with.

"I think Martin Luther King's Legacy is seen today in today's military," he said. "If you look across the ranks, we are a very diverse fighting force. We all work together. I think this is one way his legacy plays out in today's society."

Sergeant First Class Harrison was one of many who honored his legacy at the 2011 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance, presented by the Third Infantry Division, Jan. 12, at Club Stewart.

The event was held to honor King's legacy of helping to attain equal rights for all in America. Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson, a Navy

veteran, spoke about how important King is to modern America. Mayor Johnson spoke about how

America today could learn from King's use of non-violent protests to attain equal justice for all Americans. "We're celebrating a man of peace,

a man of non-violence," he said. Johnson added that modern America could learn from him and the way he accomplished significant milestones of equal rights around the world through non-violent methods. Mayor Johnson also spoke about how

servicemembers do their part to preserve King's legacy. "The military is our protector from

outside threats," he said. "They fight so we can have peace. It's important for them to have some kind of context to see their service, to see why we ask them to sacrifice for us. That's why I never turn down an opportunity to come to Fort Stewart or Hunter army Airfield to say thank you for your service." He also spoke about what he felt

is another part of King's legacy: today's youth. "They are the future," he said. "To see

the young people today honoring Dr. King is very heartwarming and reassuring that we're going to be alright in the future." Young people from the Hinesville area

had portions of essays they wrote, entitled "Civil Rights and What It Means to Me." The Mount Zion Memorial Chapel

Inspirational Dance Group performed an inspirational dance as well.



Liberty County MLK celebration inspires hope

Pat Young Fort Stewart Public Affairs

King Junior observance was shown stalwart community support during their January 14-17 observance; which included a golf tournament, scholarship awards, art and speech contests, and concluded Monday with a parade through downtown Hinesville and follow-on commemorative service at Bradwell Institute. Mr. Earnest Williams, who has organized

Liberty County's Dr. Martin Luther

Jan. 12, at Club Stewart.

the parade since 1986, said this year was special as it demonstrated support for the observance continues to grow, and includ-

ed a strong contingent of 3rd Infantry Division – many who recently redeployed

from Iraq. Representing the Marne Division, Third Infantry Division Commander, Maj. Gen.

Sergeant Major, Command Sgt Maj. Jeffrey Ashmen, led the Special Troops Battalion Color Guard, and 240 'Dog-Faced' Soldiers down the streets of Hinesville demonstrating their support for the observance. Among those 240 Soldiers were the

recently redeployed Soldiers from Spartan Brigade, led by 2nd Brigade Commander Col. Charles E. A. Sexton; and representatives from 4th Brigade and Sustainment Brigade, who still have Soldiers deployed

in Iraq and Afghanistan. "It is a great day for America, and the weather agrees," said Hinesville Councilman David Anderson, noting how the rains held off so the parade could start

on time with full support. Anderson said the MLK observance continues to grow in strength, spiritually, physically and economically – a truly great sign.

"It is an honor to celebrate Dr. Martin

how the community embraces it, both the military and civilian communities," said Liberty County Councilman Donald Lovette, looking on as the parade began. Aside from the Soldier support, there

Tony Cucolo and Interim 3rd ID Command Luther King Junior and his legacy, and see help tell the story and carry the torch to

Martin Luther King, Jr. committe.

was a strong showing of floats from local churches and civic organizations, two school bands from Liberty County High and Bradwell Institute, County and City leadership, motorcycle clubs, classic cars, and more.

The parade stepped off with an energetic spirit that continued through the commemorative ceremony. Presided by

Luciria Luckey Lovette, the ceremony featured the performances of the Liberty County Mass Choir, and an inspiring solo by Corey Odum. The Commemorative address was perthe next generation. Major Gen. Cucolo, among other com-

Spc. Michael Adams

munity leaders who greeted participants that included Hinesville Mayor James Thomas, Liberty County Commissioner John McIver, and Liberty County School Superintendent Dr. Judy Scherer, told a story of how 3rd ID Soldiers helped carry Dr. King's message to Iraq. Maj. Gen. Cucolo told a story of how,

while deployed in Iraq, the 3rd ID remembered the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., with a ceremony on banks of the Euphrates River. He said they decided to invite some of the local Iraq leaders and community members too. He noted the ceremony moved many of those attending, especially those invited Iraqis. He said he was approached by one, who noted the formed by Reverend C. Dewayne Roberts teaching of Dr. Martin Luther King and who called for community members to Gandhi, inspired hope.

From the CSMs Deske Plan Super Bowl safety before the game

Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Ervin Garrison Command Sergeant Major

TEAM – I come to you at a sad yet critical time. You have probably already noticed the safety signs' numbers are now back to single digits. Although, we won't be able to hit 300 days accidentfatality free at this time, I'd like to congratulate you on a good safety run.

The accident which set us back happened between two motorcycles and reports say the accident involved alcohol. Let me remind you that motor vehicles, especially motorcycles, and alcohol do not mix well. You have little room to err on motorcycles – and when you are intoxicated, you are simply lucky to get from point A to point B.

Super Bowl weekend is around the corner. If you are planning a party for the event or planning to attend one, please let your plans include a driver who is not drinking and hosts, be prepared to handle intoxicated guests.

The Garrison Commander and I want to remind you that "real Super Bowl fans don't let fans drive drunk.'

If your Super Bowl celebration includes alcohol, make the right decision before kickoff and always have a designated driver. And consider leaving the motorcycle home.

We are asking all party hosts and bar owners to take extra good care of designated drivers this year.

Designated drivers make sure everyone gets home safely. For taking on such an important responsibility, they should be rewarded. If you don't have a designated driver in your play book, you might want to consider staying home.

Here are some tips for the hosts:

- Make sure all of your guests designate their sober drivers before kick-off or help arrange ridesharing with other sober drivers.
- Find unique ways to recognize the designated drivers at your party.
- Give them a great spot to watch the game.
- Whatever non-alcoholic beverage they are drinking, make sure their glass is always full.
- Let them have the first pass at the buffet table. Make sure their cars are easy to
- access when it is time to start driving fans home. Serve plenty of food.
- Offer a variety of non-alcoholic choices like soft drinks, juice, and water.

measured drinks.

- Only serve alcohol to guests over 21 years of age.
- Determine ahead of time when you'll stop serving alcohol, such as one hour before the end of the party or at the end of the third quarter of the game (just like NFL stadiums) and begin serving coffee and des-
- Add the numbers of local cab companies into your phone so they are just one touch away.
- Take appropriate steps to prevent anyone from driving while impaired.
- Be prepared for guests to spend the night if an alternative way home is not available.

If you are attending a Super Bowl party or watching at a sports bar or restaurant:

- Designate your sober driver before the party begins and leave your car keys at home if you plan to drink.
- Find unique ways to recognize the designated drivers when you are out at a bar or restaurant. • Offer to be the designated driver the
- Serve one drink at a time and serve next time you go out.

- Cover the cost for parking or even pay for a tank of gas.
- Whatever non-alcoholic beverage they are drinking, make sure their glass
- is always full. • Pick up the tab for their food and
- Before you go out, add the numbers for local cab companies in your cell phone so if you find yourself in need of a ride, it is just one touch away.
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself-eat enough food, take breaks and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.
- Take appropriate steps to prevent anyone from driving while impaired. Remember, "Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk."
- Always buckle up it's your best defense on the road.

If all else fails and you are intoxicated but need to go home. DON'T DRIVE! Consider calling for a Tow-to-go service. AAA Auto Club South and Budweiser have teamed to offer a free tow and ride home to anyone too tipsy to drive. The number is 1-800-AAA-HELP. Caller identities are kept confidential.

Making the right decisions beforehand will make this year's celebration extra special - and extra safe.

SUPPORTAND DEFEND!

Brothers reunite during Operation Proper Exit stomping grounds, and they get to fly over if their [forward IED exploded under them. He sustained injuries that

103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) **Public Affairs**

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq— For retired Sgt. Alexander Reyes, returning to Iraq as part of Operation Proper Exit would be a chance to bring closure to a traumatic chapter in his life. This would be the Miami native's first visit to the country since being wounded in an improvised explosive device attack in Mahmoudiyah a little more than three years ago.

He also hoped that during the course of the trip, he'd run into his older brother, Spc. Euri Reyes, who works front gate security at the Joint Base Balad Container Repair Yard with the 289th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). However, since he hadn't heard from his brother in nearly two weeks, the chances seemed slim.

"I thought he was bothered, and I probably did something bad or said something incorrectly to him," he said. "I did not know that he planned this out."

Little did he know that the silence was part of a bigger plan. Just a few weeks earlier, Spc. Reves had been called into his battalion command sergeant major's office and was informed of his brother's upcoming visit. He was then sworn to secrecy so the reunion could be a surprise.

The plan went off without a hitch. As Sgt. Reyes, who now lives in Houston, and six other wounded warriors marched into the rotunda at Al Faw Palace for the heroes' welcome, Spc. Reves hid in the wings, awaiting the signal. Each warrior stood up and told his story to the audience, drawing tears from the eyes of many in attendance.

Sergeant Reyes was the last to stand. He recalled how his platoon, part of 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, had been on a foot patrol when an

included temporary hearing loss and nerve damage to his right arm. In spite of those injuries, he is determined to pursue a degree in psychology and be a counselor and mentor to other veterans. "No matter what happens in your life, you can over-

come any obstacle that comes your way," he said. "You will be successful."

Once he finished his speech, Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur L. Coleman Jr., senior enlisted advisor to the deputy commanding general for operations with United States Forces-Iraq, and III Corps command sergeant major, told him to stand again, and said someone he wanted to see was standing right behind him. Sergeant Reyes turned to find his brother standing there, smiling

"It just completely shocked me," he said. "Never did it cross my mind that he was already here at Victory

He explained that he thought he would eventually get to see Spc. Reyes when the visit reached Balad, but it took him by surprise when his brother appeared at the ceremony. It had even been arranged that Spc. Reyes would stay with him for the duration of the visit.

Operation Proper Exit is a program sponsored by the Troops First Foundation, a nonprofit organization that enables servicemembers who were injured in combat to return to Iraq to see the changes in the country firsthand. So far, 56 servicemembers have taken part in the program, and this particular visit was the eighth installment of the

"Bottom line, up front, it gives wounded warriors a chance to leave Iraq on their own terms rather than leaving when the enemy had a vote," said Sgt. Maj. Richard Jones, the USF-I joint operations sergeant major, and a Copperas Cove, Texas, native. "They get to visit their old operating base] no longer exists." "In their own terms, in their own way, they will find

some type of closure to know that their sacrifices were worth everything that they and their brothers put in here," added Rick Kell, the executive director of the Troops First Foundation, and a Laurel, Md., native.

Sergeant Reyes explained that he found the organization through a computer search and requested an application so he could take part.

"I always feel that Iraq is always going to be a part of me," he said. "And because I was injured, and because I wasn't given a proper exit like we Soldiers are meant to do at [a] time of war, this gives me the opportunity to get that proper exit and go back home, stepping off the plane instead of being carried."

This isn't the first time the brothers have been in Iraq at the same time. Specialist Reyes, currently on his third deployment to Iraq, had been stationed in Ramadi when Sgt. Reyes, only nine months into his first deployment, was injured. He explained that he found out about the injury through an e-mail from a friend, and was then allowed to take emergency leave to be with his brother.

"I know he's still dealing with demons from the attack," said Spc. Reves. "He wishes he was in my boots." "There was always an angel in church who kept remind-

ing me things would get better even though I doubted," he said. "He's more appreciative of life; he feels like he

Kell noted that this is the second time they've arranged a surprise like this.

"It was a special week for them and the Family, as I'm sure it will be for the Reyes Family," he said. "To know the Army will reach out and make accommodations like this when they can, should be sending a message to a lot of people. They do walk the walk."

Marne Voices Speak Out

"Shepherd's Pie, because it's the most fulfilling.





Pecan pie. Georgia pecans are really

Pfc. Tilah Sparla

Sunday, Jan. 23 is National Pie Day. What is your favorite pie?

"Mrs. Smith's deep dish apple pie. It's very rich and has a lot of personality.



for special occasions; it was homemade and delicious.'

Jami Korneder Family Member

"Apple pie. That's the one my

Pfc. Benjamin Tennant Aviation Opns Spec., 3rd CAB





3RD INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER, SENIOR COMMANDER FS/HAAF MAJ. GEN. TONY CUCOLO USAG FS/HAAF COMMANDER COL. KEVIN W. MILTON

HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD COMMANDER LT. COL. JOSE L. AGUILAR

'Cherry pie. It's a Family favorite.'

Morgan Garcia -amily Member

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Guy Shifflett

DPTMS, Information Security

We all, to a varying degree, give some daily consideration to the security environment in which we live and work. However, there is an element of complacency in recognizing the potential negative ramifications from the things that we throw out. After all, once we are done with it, it is just trash. Excluding the recycling folks and the dumpster diver this lack of sensitivity is not uncommon.

Believe it or not, dumpster diving is a common practice and you'll find discussion forums, clubs and best practices on the World Wide Web. You'll even find dumpster diving in Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, which states "dumpster diving is the practice of sifting through commercial or residential trash to find items that have been discarded by their owners, but which may be useful to the dumpster diver". In the intelligence world dumpster diving was a common tactic before there was a formal definition of the practice.

The old saying that "one person's trash is another person's treasure" has continued relevancy in our society today. During these exceptionally difficult economic times this adage has taken on a new signifi-

Criminals find our trash; bank statements, receipts, utility bills, pre-approved credit card offers and an an unsophisticated means to commit identity

Social engineering techniques can use even the most seemingly non-sensitive information like our phone numbers, unwanted files, letters, memos, calendars, sticky notes, or even organizational information to commit criminal activity and fraud while using someone else's name.

The costs are estimated to be in the billions of dollars annually. The economic impact is staggering; however there are hidden personal costs not readily evident. Due to identity theft you may lose out on a new job, be arrested for a crime you didn't commit or denied a line of credit for a new home or a car due to your credit report. There are implications for our children as well. Children are very soft targets for identity theft due to not having debt history and therefore no reason for us to check their credit. If children are successfully targeted then it could be years before the identity theft is detected.

Millions unwittingly fall victim to identity theft each year! Of those approximately 20 percent were impacted due to improper disposal of what they thought to be non-sensitive information and documents containing Personally Identifiable Information, commonly known as PII. Such incidents included for example, throwing documents containing PII which were not beyond reconstruction into the local trash receptacle or dumpster.

PII is any information about an individual which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity such as social security number to include just the use of the last four digits, date and place of birth, home address, mother's maiden name, personal email and telephone number. This includes, but is not limited to; performance rating, education records, security clearance level, financial transactions, medical files, criminal records, or employment

If you or your Family Members have personal records, tax forms, etc., that you've been meaning to destroy but don't want to buy a shredder or just don't have the time, then please participate in "Shred It - Don't Share It" Days. Units & directorates are also encouraged to use this event to destroy For Official Use Only & unclassified sensitive documents. No appointment required.

The "Shred It - Don't Share It" location at Hunter Army Airfield is the PX parking lot on Tuesday from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Fort Stewart will host the event at the Furniture Store, building 419, parking lot on Wednesday, from 1-3 p.m.

The threat of identity theft is not going away in the foreseeable future and experts predict 2011 will see a record number of victims. That is, unless we begin to change our mindset and make significant changes regarding Information Security. The most important asset we have is our identity.

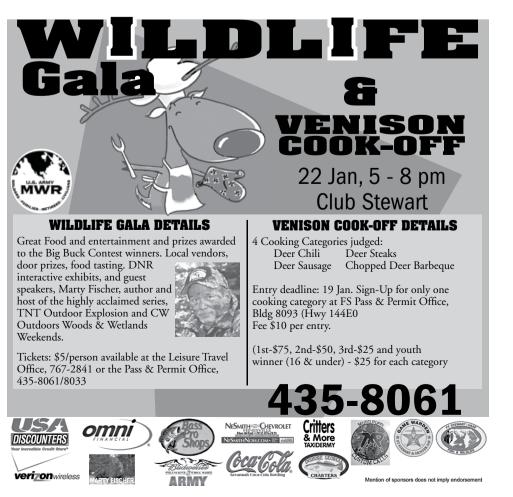


Army Airfield PX Parking Lot Jan. 25, 12:30 - 2:20 p.m. **Building 419 Furniture Store Parking Lot** Jan. 26, 1 - 3 p.m.

Prevent Identity Theft Turn-in Personally Indentifiable Information (PII) for Destruction

Unit and directorate participation encouraged Use this opportunity to destroy all unnescessary FOUO and unclassified sensitive documents not required for operational purposes

For more information call, Stewart 912-767-8613 | Hunter 912-767-1888



Around the Department of Defense



Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Program Announced

U.S. Department of Defense OASD Public Affairs

The Department of Defense announced Jan. 14 its program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The program will:

 Thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the Families of these veterans.

- Highlight the service of the armed forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the armed
- Pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the • Highlight the advances in technology, science,
- and medicine related to the military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

• Recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

DoD representatives will coordinate with other federal agencies, veteran groups, state, local government and non-government organizations for their input in Vietnam War commemoration activities.

For more information call 877-387-9951 or visit the official website at http://www.vietnamwar50th.

VA program helps Families help their veterans

Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- "Families At Ease" is a new program developed by Department of Veterans Affairs officials that works with Family Members and friends of veterans of any era to help them help their veteran

Many veterans are reluctant to get help for the symptoms or difficulties they are having, or may not recognize their need for help.

It could be difficulty at work or at home, problems sleeping, driving too fast, or drinking too much. Or it could just be that they seem irritable or sad.

Whatever the problem, Family Members are often very aware of veterans' mental health difficulties and want to play a positive role in helping veterans seek the help they need.

The "Families At Ease" educational campaign attempts to reach new veterans through their concerned Family Members and provides information and support to help the veteran access VA facilities for services and benefits.

A multi-site call center was developed at the Philadelphia and Durham, N.C. VA medical centers to answer calls from Family Members and friends, as well

Callers can get information on how to enroll in VA care. They can also get free telephone-based coaching by a mental health consultant to help when a veteran is reluctant to admit having difficulties.

"We take a positive approach to motivating the Veteran, which means while we work with the Family Member to motivate the Veteran, the choice to come in is always in the Veteran's hands, " said Dr. Steven Sayers, the "Familes At Ease" director.

Doctor Sayers is a clinical psychologist with the Mental Illness, Research, Education and Clinical Center at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center.

"Coaching of Family Members involves discussing ways to talk to the veteran about the difficulties they are having and offering help without trying to force the veteran to go for this help," he said. "A Family Member may have one, two or several coaching calls over the span of a few days or weeks in order to try to help them encourage the veteran to seek care."

The program has served about 50 Family Members and veterans so far and has had positive results. About half of the calls pertained to veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan, with the rest serving in Vietnam, the first Gulf War, and other conflicts.

Seventy percent of veterans associated with callers were already enrolled in VA care; the coaching of Family Members has resulted in an increase from 70 percent to 85 percent for enrollment in VA care.

A significant improvement was seen in veterans receiving mental health care, with an increase from 24 percent to 45 percent, thanks to the coaching of Family

"The role of Family Members in supporting treatment of our military veterans is now a key part of the services provided by VA," Dr. Sayers said. "Families At Ease" is an example of the innovative strategies now part of VA services." The pilot phase of the program was launched in

Philadelphia and Durham in January. This month, "Families At Ease" will begin to take calls during expanded business hours and start the process of becoming a national program. Following the pilot phase of the new program,

"Families At Ease" will be a national program with an additional call center site in Los Angeles.

Family Members or veterans can reach "Families At Ease" at 888-823-7458 (8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. ET), by e-mailing Families. Ease. PA@va.gov, or on the Web at www. mirecc.va.gov/FamiliesAtEase.

Suicide prevention alliance focuses on troops, veterans

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- A suicideprevention task force for servicemembers and veterans has been added to a national alliance that officials hope will help bring more attention to the issues and offer solutions in the future.

Officials with the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention last week announced that service members and veterans -- identified as a high-risk group -- were added because of their increased suicide rates.

"Combined with initiatives already underway by the Department of Defense and the (Department of Veterans Affairs),

this task force will further strengthen prevention, bringing together the best minds in the public and private sectors," said Secretary of the Army John McHugh, the co-chair of the alliance.

The alliance was launched last year by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, with input and support of many public- and private-sector stakeholders, including the National Council for Suicide Prevention

Speaking Sept. 10, 2010 at the launch of the alliance, a public-private partnership, Secretary Gates emphasized the importance of a nationwide approach

to suicide prevention. The alliance's strategy pools federal and private-sector research and resources to work on addressing the national suicide rate, he

"In everything we do, we must remember that every Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine is part, not just of the military, but also a larger community," Secretary Gates said. "Their Families, their hometowns, their civilian employers, their places of worship -- all must be involved in the solution.

The military suicide rate has increased steadily over the past five years, exceeding the national average of 11.1 suicides per 100,000 people. The military last

year averaged 12.5 suicides per 100,000,

and Veterans Task Force are Dr. Jan Kemp, the national director of VA's suicide prevention program, and Maggie Haynes, the director of combat stress for the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit organization.

vice members and veterans, the alliance also established suicide-prevention task forces for other groups it determined are at high risk: American Indians and Alaska natives, and youths who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

Congressional commission studies women in combat

Karen Parrish

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON-

Defense Department officials will review the recommendations of a congressional commission studying the role of women in combat when the group's report is complete, a DOD official said Jan. 14.

Congress established the Military Leadership **Diversity Commission as** part of the 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. The commission's task is to evaluate and assess policies that provide opportunities for promotion and advancement of minority members of the armed forces.

The commission's report, expected in March, will include the findings and conclusions of the commission as well as its recommendations for improving diversity within the armed forces. "DOD will look at the

recommendation and go from there," Pentagon spokesman Marine Corps Colonel Dave Lapan said. "We'll see what the nature of the report is when it's done."

Congress repealed the combat exclusion laws in the January 1994 National Defense Authorization Act, but requires the services to submit proposed changes to existing assignment policy to Congress for review, Col. Lapan said.

"For example, when the Navy recently changed its policy to enable women to serve on submarines that would go through that process" he said. "So the Navy would have to inform Congress it was going to make a change."

The Marine Corps also triggered congressional review when it opened some intelligence positions to women, Col.

Lapan said, but female Marines serving on engagement teams in Afghanistan are in line with department policy on women's assignments.

Col. Lapan said the U.S. military currently prohibits women from serving in combat units below the brigade level. The Marine women on engagement teams are not assigned to combat units, but are augmenting them for a specific mission, he said.

"Part of the reason to do that was because the infantry battalions that were out there didn't have any women, because they couldn't," he explained.

Women make up 14.6 percent of the active duty military. By service, the percentage ranges from 7.5 percent in the Marine Corps to 19.2 percent in the Air Force, according to statistics compiled by the Women in Military Service for America Foundation.

according DOD reports. The leaders of the alliance's Military

In addition to the task force for ser-

2011 Military Payscales

BASIC PAY—EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011												
Pay Grade	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	
0-10												
0-9												
0-8	9,530.70	9,842.70	10,050.00	10,107.90	10,366.50	10,798.20	10,899.00	11,308.80	11,426.40	11,779.80	12,291.00	
0-7	7,919.10	8,287.20	8,457.30	8,592.60	8,837.70	9,079.80	9,359.70	9,638.70	9,918.60	10,798.20	11,540.70	
0-6	5,869.50	6,448.50	6,871.50	6,871.50	6,897.60	7,193.40	7,232.40	7,232.40	7,643.40	8,370.30	8,796.90	
0-5	4,893.00	5,512.20	5,893.80	5,965.80	6,203.70	6,346.20	6,659.40	6,889.20	7,186.20	7,640.70	7,856.70	
0-4	4,221.90	4,887.30	5,213.40	5,286.00	5,588.70	5,913.30	6,317.40	6,632.10	6,851.10	6,976.50	7,049.10	
0-3	3,711.90	4,208.10	4,542.00	4,951.80	5,188.80	5,449.20	5,617.80	5,894.70	6,039.00	6,039.00	6,039.00	
0-2	3,207.30	3,652.80	4,207.20	4,349.10	4,438.50	4,438.50	4,438.50	4,438.50	4,438.50	4,438.50	4,438.50	
0-1	2,784.00	2,897.40	3,502.50	3,502.50	3,502.50	3,502.50	3,502.50	3,502.50	3,502.50	3,502.50	3,502.50	
0-3				4,951.80	5,188.80	5,449.20	5,617.80	5,894.70	6,128.10	6,262.20	6,444.90	
0-2				4,349.10	4,438.50	4,580.10	4,818.60	5,002.80	5,140.20	5,140.20	5,140.20	
0-1*				3,502.50	3,740.40	3,878.70	4,020.30	4,158.90	4,349.10	4,349.10	4,349.10	
W-5												
W-4	3,836.10	4,126.50	4,245.00	4,361.40	4,562.10	4,760.70	4,961.40	5,264.40	5,529.60	5,781.90	5,988.30	
W-3	3,502.80	3,648.90	3,798.60	3,847.80	4,004.70	4,313.70	4,635.00	4,786.20	4,961.10	5,142.00	5,466.00	
W-2	3,099.90	3,393.00	3,483.30	3,545.40	3,746.40	4,059.00	4,213.50	4,366.20	4,552.50	4,698.00	4,830.00	
W-1	2,721.00	3,013.50	3,092.40	3,258.90	3,456.00	3,745.80	3,881.40	4,070.40	4,256.70	4,403.10	4,538.10	
E-9*							4,634.70	4,739.70	4,872.00	5,027.70	5,184.60	
E-8						3,794.10	3,961.80	4,065.60	4,190.40	4,325.10	4,568.40	
E-7	2,637.30	2,878.50	2,988.90	3,135.00	3,249.00	3,444.60	3,554.70	3,750.90	3,913.50	4,024.50	4,143.00	
E-6	2,281.20	2,510.10	2,620.80	2,728.50	2,840.70	3,093.60	3,192.30	3,382.80	3,441.00	3,483.60	3,533.40	
E-5	2,090.10	2,230.20	2,337.90	2,448.30	2,620.20	2,800.50	2,947.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	
E-4	1,916.10	2,014.20	2,123.40	2,230.80	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	
E-3	1,729.80	1,838.70	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	
E-2	1,644.90	1,644.90	1,644.90	1,644.90	1,644.90	1,644.90	1,644.90	1,644.90	1,644.90	1,644.90	1,644.90	
E-1	1,467.60											
Pay Grade	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26	Over28	Over 30	Over 32	Over 34	Over 36	Over 38	Over 40	
0-10	15,400.80	15,475.80	15,797.70	16,358.40	16,358.40	17,176.20	17,176.20	18,034.80	18,034.80	18,936.90	18,936.90	
0-9'	13,469.70	13,663.80	13,944.00	14,433.00	14,433.00	15,155.10	15,155.10	15,912.90	15,912.90	16,708.50	16,708.50	
0-8	12,762.30	13,077.30	13,077.30	13,077.30	13,077.30	13,404.30	13,404.30	13,739.40	13,739.40	13,739.40	13,739.40	
0-6*	11,540.70	11,540.70	11,540.70	11,599.50	11,599.50	11,831.70	11,831.70	11,831.70	11,831.70	11,831.70	11,831.70	
0-5	9,222.90	9,465.60	9,711.30	10,187.70	10,187.70	10,391.10	10,391.10	10,391.10	10,391.10	10,391.10	10,391.10	
0-3	8,070.30	8,313.30	8,313.30	8,313.30	8,313.30	8,313.30	8,313.30	8,313.30	8,313.30	8,313.30	8,313.30	
0-3	7,049.10	7,049.10	7,049.10	7,049.10	7,049.10	7,049.10	7,049.10	7,049.10	7,049.10	7,049.10	7,049.10	
0-3	6,039.00	6,039.00 4,438.50	6,039.00	6,039.00	6,039.00	6,039.00	6,039.00	6,039.00	6,039.00	6,039.00	6,039.00 4,438.50	
0-1	4,438.50		4,438.50	4,438.50	4,438.50	4,438.50 3,502.50	4,438.50	4,438.50 3,502.50	4,438.50	4,438.50		
0.3	3,502.50 6,444.90	3,502.50 6,444.90	3,502.50 6,444.90	3,502.50 6,444.90	3,502.50 6,444.90	6,444.90	3,502.50 6,444.90	6,444.90	3,502.50 6,444.90	3,502.50 6,444.90	3,502.50 6,444.90	
0-2	5,140.20	5,140.20	5,140.20	5,140.20	5,140.20	5,140.20	5,140.20	5,140.20	5,140.20	5,140.20	5,140.20	
0-19	4,349.10	4,349.10	4,349.10	4,349.10	4,349.10	4,349.10	4,349.10	4,349.10	4,349.10	4,349.10	4,349.10	
W-5	6,820.80	7,167.00	7,424.70	7,710.00	7,710.00	8,095.80	8,095.80	8,500.50	8,500.50	8,925.90	8,925.90	
W-4	6,189.60	6,485.40	6,728.40	7,710.60	7,710.60	7,145.70	7,145.70	7,145.70	7,145.70	7,145.70	7,145.70	
W-3	5,685.30	5,816.40	5,955.60	6,144.90	6,144.90	6,144.90	6,144.90	6,144.90	6,144.90	6,144.90	6,144.90	
W-2	4,987.80	5,091.60	5,174.10	5,174.10	5,174.10	5,174.10	5,174.10	5,174.10	5,174.10	5,174.10	5,174.10	
W-1	4,701.60	4,701.60	4,701.60	4,701.60	4,701.60	4,701.60	4,701.60	4,701.60	4,701.60	4,701.60	4,701.60	
E-5	5,436.60	5,649.30	5,873.40	6,215.70	6,215.70	6,526.20	6,526.20	6,852.90	6,852.90	7,195.80	7,195.80	
E-8	4,691.70	4,901.70	5,017.80	5,304.60	5,304.60	5,411.10	5,411.10	5,411.10	5,411.10	5,411.10	5,411.10	
E-7	4,189.20	4,342.80	4,425.60	4,740.00	4,740.00	4,740.00	4,740.00	4,740.00	4,740.00	4,740.00	4,740.00	
E-6	3,533.40	3,533.40	3,533.40	3,533.40	3,533.40	3,533.40	3,533.40	3,533.40	3,533.40	3,533.40	3,533.40	
E-5	2,965.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	2,965.50	
E-4	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	2,325.90	
E-3	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	

Notes:

- Basic pay for an O-7 to O-10 is limited by Level II of the Executive Schedule which is \$14,975.10. Basic pay for O-6 and below is limited by Level V of the Executive Schedule While serving as Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff/Vice Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff, Chief of Navy Operations, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Army/Air Force Chief of Staff,
- Commander of a unified or specified combatant command, basic pay is \$20,263.50. (See note 1 above).

 Applicable to O-1 to O-3 with at least 4 years and 1 day of active duty or more than 1460 points as a warrant and/or enlisted member. See Department of Defense Financial
- Management Regulations for more detailed explanation on who is eligible for this special basic pay rate.

 For the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Chief Master Sergeant of the AF, Sergeant Major of the Army or Marine Corps or Senior Enlisted Advisor of the JCS, basic pay is

 \$7,489.80. Combat Zone Tax Exclusion for O-1 and above is based on this basic pay rate plus Hostile Fire Pay/Imminent Danger Pay which is \$225.00.
- Applicable to E-1 with 4 months or more of active duty. Basic pay for an E-1 with less than 4 months of active duty is \$1,357.20. Basic pay rate for Academy Cadets/Midshipmen and ROTC members/applicants is \$974.40

					ALLOV	VANC	ES								
Ва	sic Allow		using RC/Tr	ansient	Family Separation Allowance										
		(January 1,													
Pay Grade	Partial	Without Dependent	With Dependent	Differential											
0-10	\$ 50.70	\$ 1,405.50	\$ 1,728.90	\$ 319.80	Basic Allowance for Subsistence Family Subsistence Su										
0-9	\$ 50.70	\$ 1,405.50	\$ 1,728.90	\$ 319.80	(Effective J	October 1, 2010)									
0-8	\$ 50.70	\$ 1,405.50	\$ 1,728.90	\$ 319.80	Officers: \$223.84 All Pay Gra										
0-7	\$ 50.70	\$ 1,405.50	\$ 1,728.90	\$ 319.80	Enlisted: \$325.04 Not to Exceed \$1								1100.00		
0-6	\$ 39.60	\$ 1,288.80	\$ 1,556.40	\$ 264.90		Clashin	a. A.II.a.i		T-664:	0-4-	hou 4 C	0040)			
0-5	\$ 33.00	\$ 1,241.10	\$ 1,500.30	\$ 255.60	Clothing Allowances (Effective October 1, 2010)										
0-4	\$ 26.70	\$ 1,149.90	\$ 1,322.40	\$ 170.10	St	andard I	nitial Clo	thing All	owance	(Enlisted	d Membe	rs Only)			
0-3	\$ 22.20	\$ 922.20	\$ 1,094.40	\$ 169.80		Ar	ny	Na	vy	Air	Force	Marin	e Corps		
0-2	\$ 17.70	\$ 730.80	\$ 933.60	\$ 200.40		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
0-1	\$ 13.20	\$ 627.00	\$ 835.80	\$ 216.90		1,441.68	1,673.18	1,630.62	1,853.34	1,405.94	1,632.41	1,680.05	1,744.3		
03E	\$ 22.20	\$ 995.10	\$ 1,176.00	\$ 178.20	Cas	h Clothii	ng Repla	cement A	llowand	e (Enlist	ed Memb	ers Only	/)		
02E	\$ 17.70	\$ 846.00	\$ 1,061.10	\$ 213.30		Ar	ny	Na	vy	Air I	Force	Marin	e Corps		
Ole	\$ 13.20	\$ 735.90	\$ 981.00	\$ 250.20		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
W-5	\$ 25.20	\$ 1,168.50	\$ 1,277.10	\$ 106.20	Basic	370.80	410.40	327.60	331.20	273.60	302.40	403.20	428.40		
W-4	\$ 25.20	\$ 1,037.40	\$ 1,170.60	\$ 130.80	Standard	531.80	585.87	468.00	471.60	388.80	432.00	572.40	608.40		
W-3	\$ 20.70	\$ 872.40	\$ 1,073.10	\$ 197.70	Special			709.20	759.60	0					
W-2	\$ 15.90	\$ 774.00	\$ 985.80	\$ 209.10			Ci	vilian Clo	thing Al	lowance					
W-1	\$ 13.80	\$ 648.90	\$ 853.20	\$ 202.20	Type of Duty	Initial	Replace	ment 15 c	lays in 30	days perio	d 30 days	in 36 moi	ıth period		
E-9	\$ 18.60	\$ 852.00	\$ 1,123.20	\$ 267.30	Permanent								0		
E-8	\$ 15.30	\$ 782.40	\$ 1,036.20	\$ 250.50	Temporary	Temporary 0 0 313.56						627.12			
E-7	\$ 12.00	\$ 721.50	\$ 961.80	\$ 289.90		Pei	sonal M	oney Allo	wance (Monthly	Amount				
E-6	\$ 9.90	\$ 666.60	\$ 888.60	\$ 279.90	1. While se	erving as	Chairma	an or Vic	Chairn	nan of th	e JCS,	¢222	22		
E-5	\$ 8.70	\$ 599.40	\$ 799.20	\$ 238.20	or Army	or Air F	orce CS,	CNO, or	CMC		,	\$333	.33		
E-4	\$ 8.10	\$ 521.40	\$ 694.80	\$ 206.10	2. Senior N	lember o	f the Mil	itary Staf	f Comm	ittee of t	he U.N.	\$225	.00		
E-3	\$ 7.80	\$ 484.80	\$ 646.20	\$ 168.60	3. General or Admiral \$183.33										
E-2	\$ 7.20	\$ 462.00	\$ 615.90	\$ 225.60	4. Lieutenant General Vice Admiral \$41.67										
E-1	\$ 6.90	\$ 462.00	\$ 615.90	\$ 267.30	5. Senior Enlisted Member of a Military Service \$166.67										
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3 Year Agreement

2 Year Agreement

Housing rates dip for 2011 as pay, subsistence increase

Karen Parrish American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Most military housing allowance rates will decrease slightly for 2011, but servicemembers will receive, on average, as much or slightly more money than they did this year, Defense Department officials said Dec. 15.

Cheryl Anne Woehr, housing allowance program analyst, said overall rates are fairly stable.

"On average, they'll decrease about six tenths of a percent," she said.

The 2011 Basic Allowance for Housing rates took effect Jan. 1. A provision ensuring against rate decreases for servicemembers already stationed at a location means Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines will receive an average 1.1 percent increase, Woehr said. That overall increase is "because of the effects of individual rate protection and the distribution of servicemembers throughout the [United States]," she explained.

Individual rate protection ensures that members who have made lease or contract commitments for housing aren't penalized if an area's costs decline. Any decreases apply only to members who move to a location after rates change. Even if housing allowance rates decrease over two or more years, military members stationed in the same location are assured their previous, higher rate, Woehr said.

"They receive the higher of what they were paid Dec. 31, or the new rate," she said. "If the rates go down one year, the servicemember receives the previous year's rate. If the rates go down again, the servicemember would continue to get that year-one rate."

The allowance covers housing costs for servicemembers living off military installations in the United States; those who live in government housing don't receive the allowance. Servicemembers stationed overseas who live in private housing receive the overseas housing allowance. Rates for that allowance are reviewed at least every six months, defense finance officials said.

"The reality is, the [basic allowance for housing] rates vary and the changes in the rates vary across the country, with some housing areas decreasing as much as 8 percent and others increasing more than 10 percent," Woehr said. "Rent is the largest component of the BAH rates, so that has the most influence on what rates do."

The allowance rate is computed annually for each military housing area and is based on three factors: median current market rent; average utilities, including water and sewer, electricity and heating costs; and average renter's insurance.

Total costs are assessed for six housing profiles, based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms, in each military housing area. Housing allowance rates are then determined for servicemembers in each pay grade, with and without dependent Family Members. The department will pay its more than 1 million active-duty servicemembers an estimated \$19 billion in housing allowance over 2011.

Jerilyn Busch, director of military compensation, said servicemembers also will see an increase in pay and subsistence allowances in January. A 1.4 percent basic pay raise takes effect Jan. 1 by operation of law, and it reflects the change in the employment cost index, she said. That raise will be in effect until Congress passes the National Defense Authorization Act, which currently contains a 1.9 percent pay raise. But the final raise military members receive will be in accordance with the defense authorization act as signed by the president, Busch said.

The basic allowance for subsistence in 2011 will increase 0.36 percent, Busch said. The new rates will be \$223.04 for officers and \$323.87 for enlisted servicemembers.

Since 2002, defense officials said, military pay has risen 42 percent, housing allowances have risen 83 percent, and the subsistence allowance has risen 40 percent. By comparison, private-sector salaries have risen 32 percent over that time, officials said.



Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Warfare recruiters schedule visit

The U.S. Army Asymmetric Warfare Group recruiters will visit Fort Stewart Jan. 25-26 and Hunter Army Airfield Jan. 27, to conduct recruiting briefings. Briefings are scheduled on January 25-26 at 10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, room 246 and on Jan. 27 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the Hunter Army Airfield Center, room 18.

Speed limit change, portions of 144, 119

Effective Jan. 17, the speed limit on Ga. Hwy 144 West and 119 changed from 55 miles per hour to 45 miles per hour in some locations. Additionally, the speed limit at the Gate 5 intersection to Pass and Permit on Ga. Hwy 144 East will change from 45 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour. A new traffic light in the vicinity of Austin Road on Ga. Hwy 144 East is intermittently operational now. Motorists are encouraged to exercise caution in the area due to increased traffic flow in the new 4th IBCT unit area.

Shred it days coming

The DPTMS Security Division, in partnership with the DPW Environmental Division, is once again sponsoring the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Shred It-Don't Share It Days! Scrutinize the Personally Identifiable Information documents you maintain and those you've been meaning to get rid of-protect yourself and your Family Members from Identity Theft - SHRED IT!

No appointment required. Units and directorates are encouraged to use this event to destroy FOUO and unclassified sensitive documents not required for operational purposes. Questions may be referred to the DPTMS Security Division, 912-767-8613.

Turn-in for shredding: Hunter Army Airfield at the PX Parking Lot, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Tuesday, and Fort Stewart at the Furniture Store Parking Lot, building 419, 1-3 p.m., Wednesday.

Military invited, free GS basketball game

Athletics and Eagle Basketball would like to invite all active and non-active servicemen and women to Military Appreciation Day 7 p.m., Jan. 26, to see the Georgia Southern Men's Basketball vs. College of Charleston game. All current and former military personal (active duty, reservist, national guard, retirees, and veterans) will receive free admission and 2 complimentary tickets at the Hanner Fieldhouse ticket booth on the campus of Georgia Southern in Statesboro, with a valid military ID or simply identify yourself as a veteran for those that do not have a military ID. (That is a total of 3 tickets for FREE).

The online site to sign up in advance is not opera-

tional, so just show up at the Hanner Fieldhouse (intersection of GA Hwy 67-Fair Road and Herty Drive) and there will be a ticket for you. If you have any questions regarding ticket information, contact John Ramfjord, Georgia Southern Ticketing Office at 800-478-9467.

Now hiring security guards

The Directorate of Emergency Services is currently filling multiple Department of the Army Security Guards positions located at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield. For consideration, interested candidates may visit web sites www.cpol.army.mil or www.usajobs. gov to apply.

Resumes must be active and on file in the Army Centralized Resumix database. All self-nominations must be submitted by the closing date of the vacancy announcement.

The Security guard positions are restricted to veterans. Non-veterans will be considered only in the absence of sufficient number of veterans applying to be the number of vacancies to be filled. The vacancy announcement numbers are SCDW10654984 Supervisory Security Guard GS-0085-07; and SCDW10651788 Security Guard GS-0085-04.

For additional information on VRA eligibility please visit the VETGUIDE at *opm.gov/staffingPortal/Vetguide. asp.*

STEWART

Digital adapters required

On Jan. 12, Comcast began enhancement to their television programming. Along with this enhancement all televisions on Fort Stewart require the addition of a Digital Terminal Adapter (DTA) to receive the full range of television programming previously received. Without the DTA televisions connected to Comcast supplied outlets will only receive channels 2-22 or 5-29. If you have not received the DTA at your location contact your facility managers. The Fort Stewart point of contact is Eric Waters at 912-767-3417/8667 or email *eric.a.waters@us.army.mil.* If you live in quarters on or off the installation or live in the barracks please contact the local Comcast office for the DTA equipment.

Hunter Army Airfield is currently unaffected by this Comcast enhancement.

Enjoy Marne Call at Thunder Run

Come out to Marne Call in Thunder Run, Friday, and Jan. 28 at Club Stewart, building 405, from 5 p.m.-3 a.m. Come relax at Thunder Run and enjoy karaoke, music, snacks and lots of fun. DJ Mark Ross plays Top

40's until 3 a.m. For more information, call 912-368-2212.

Controlled burns conducted

Fort Stewart's Forestry Branch is conducting seasonal controlled burns at various locations on the installation.

These prescribed burnings are scheduled fires used to reduce vegetation that fuels wildfires. Use caution. Look for smoke on roadways. Reduce speed when approaching smoky areas. For more information please contact Amanda Hinesley at 912-767-4459.

HUNTER

Hunter's welcome home case lot sale

The Hunter Commissary and the Hunter Exchange will celebrate our Soldiers' return with a huge sale Friday and Saturday, and an outdoor event Saturday, in the joint facility parking lot. Merchandise will be discounted on both days inside both stores. Outside on Saturday, there will be kiddie rides, displays, and prizes set up 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Don't miss the fun and some great deals!

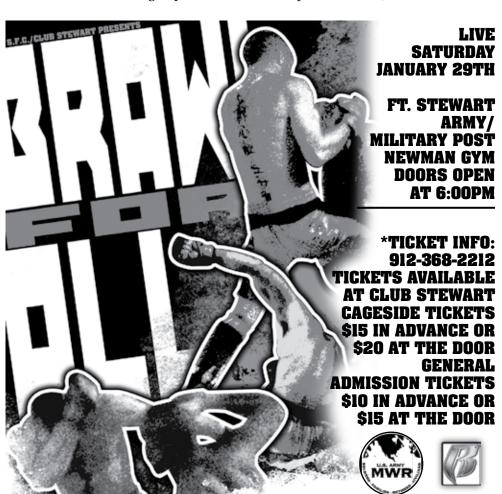
LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Alante Whiting,** 3/69 Armor
BN, Fort Stewart,
Ga.,31314, please contact 2nd Lt. Jack Gibson at 216-526-2997.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Lillian Bell,** HHC, Warrior Transition Battalion, Fort Stewart Ga., 31314, please contact Capt. Charles Cox Jr. at 912-435-5983.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Pvt. Adam Kiedrowski,** 632nd
Maint. Co., 87th CSSB,
Fort Stewart, Ga.,31314,
please contact 1st Lt.
Raymond Patterson at 318-833-1674.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Jaymie**Allison, HHC, 3rd CAB, Fort Stewart Ga., 31314, please contact Capt. Jane Fisher at 803-553-8967.



Education Matters

College Open House announced

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, building 100 will hold a two day College Open House, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jan. 25 and 26 with different colleges represented on each day. The Hunter Education Center, building 1290, will hold their Open House from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Jan. 25.

Register for College Graduation

Have you completed your college degree or earned a post-secondary certificate after Aug 2009? Are you due to get your degree by August 2010? Will you be within 9 semester hours of completing your requirements by August? If so, you are invited to participate in the Ft. Stewart/Hunter "All College Commencement", June 24. It will be held at the Main Post Chapel, Fort Stewart, building 500, at 7 p.m. The graduation brochure will list all graduates, or soon to be graduates. To have your name listed, even if you do not plan to attend, we must hear from you!

We request that any military, Family Members, retirees, and civilian/contract employees attending "On-Post" Schools (CTC, Columbia, ERAU, Savannah Tech and Webster), contact their college right away. For those attending off-post schools, please complete the electronic "Candidate for Graduation" form at www.stewart.army.mil/services/education/gradForm/gradform.asp. Your early submission will also allow us to announce your name as you walk down the aisle

in front of your family and friends! Forms are also available at the Sgt. 1st. Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. Once the form is received, the graduate will be sent a memo with additional information and instructions. For more information, contact Sheraill Fresher, 767-8331 or e-mail Sheraill.d.fresher@conus.army.mil.

Transition-to-Teaching sessions slated

The Georgia Troops-to-Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified servicemembers of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Bill Kirkland conducts monthly Transition-to-Teaching 90-minute classes that consist of an overview of programs, registration procedures and Georgia teacher certification options.

This includes the Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program, a two-year program that allows those with bachelor degrees to teach and certify at the same time. Military spouses are also invited. The next briefing is 9 a.m., Jan. 26, in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center at Fort Stewart. For more information, call 1-800-745-0709 for more information. The official website is *www.tttga.net*.

Register for free GED classes

Adult Literacy and GED preparation courses are offered by the Liberty County Adult Education Program at Fort Stewart in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith

Education Center. The free classes are held in either morning, afternoon or evening sessions and will prepare you to take the GED or refresh your skills in basic education subjects.

The next registration opportunity is Jan. 24 and Jan. 25 in room 228. You must be present both consecutive days from 1-5 p.m. to complete the enrollment process. Certain items are necessary to register, call 912-368-7322 for complete details.

MyCAA available for spouses

The Department of Defense has resumed the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts, MyCAA, program for qualifying spouses only. The program now assists spouses of active duty servicemembers in the pay grades of private to sergeant, warrant officers 1 to 2, first lieutenant, and second lieutenant to achieve portable careers.

The approved education programs are only associate's degrees, licensure, and certifications. Funding assistance will be up to \$4,000 with an annual cap of \$2,000 per fiscal year. To open an account and to see the full details of the new program, go to the secure website, https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa. Please allow for 14 days for approval of all financial assistance documents.

If information is needed on other sources of financial assistance please contact a Military OneSource consultant at 800-342-9647.

Upcoming Changes to The Post-9/11 GI-Bill

The following is an excerpt from a recent posting at the Veterans Administration Web site. The full announcement can be found by going to http://gibill.va.gov/post-911/post-911-gibill-summary/Post911_changes.html. The examples are based on the 100% payment scale. Benefits will be lower for Veterans that are getting benefits at 90% or less.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2010 was recently signed into law. This lists changes to the GI Bill made by this law.

Effective August 1, 2011

• The Post-9/11 GI Bill will now pay all public school in-state tuition and fees; this includes graduate training, etc.

- For students attending private or foreign schools, the tuition and fee reimbursement is capped at the lesser of net out-of-pocket cost or \$17,500 annually however the Yellow Ribbon Program still exists.
- Reimbursement is now available for multiple Licensing and Certification Tests (up to \$2000).
- Reimbursement is now available for fees paid to take national examinations used for admission to an institution of higher learning (e.g. SAT, LSAT, ACT, GMAT, etc).
- If you are training at greater than ½ time your housing allowance is now prorated according to the training time you are enrolled in (rounded to the nearest tenth), i.e. full housing allow-

ance for you is \$1000, you are attending ¾ time - your housing allowance would be \$800 (80% of \$1000).

• Break or interval pay is no longer payable under any VA education benefit program.

This means that if your semester ends Dec.15, your housing allowance is paid for the first 15 days of Dec. only. Your benefits will begin again when your new semester begins (e.g. Jan.15).

Students using other VA education programs are included in this change. Monthly benefits will be prorated in the same manner.

Effective October 1, 2011

• Housing allowance is now payable to students enrolled solely in distance learning, the housing allowance is ½ the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents (the rate would be

\$673.50 for 2011).

- Non-college degree programs, onthe-job training, and flight training programs are now covered under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- The book stipend is now payable to active duty members (and their Spouses who are using benefits under the transferability program).

Effective August 1, 2009, but not payable until October 1, 2011

• Certain National Guard members mobilized on Title 32 orders on-orafter September 11, 2001 are now eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and any qualifying Title 32 mobilization may be used to increase your percentage of eligibility.

You may contact the Veterans Administration by calling 1-888-GI BILL 1.

Vanguard Soldiers, Iraqi Police provide for families in need

Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas 4th AAB. 3ID. USD-C

HAMDIYAH, Iraq—Violence in Iraq has caused several thousand citizens to flee their hometowns since 2003. Many left behind the only place they've ever known, to save their lives and to protect the lives of their families. Some left the country altogether, and others found safer regions within Iraq's borders with hope they can live peacefully in their native land.

About 50 internally displaced Iraqi families now reside in Hamdiyah, Iraq, and the local Iraqi Police, with the assistance of Soldiers with Company D, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, are helping to support these citizens as well as families of fallen Iraqi Police officers who also live in the area.

The combined forces conducted a humanitarian assistance mission Jan. 8 in a Hamdiyah village, distributing hundreds of bags of rice, lentils and blankets, space heaters, cooking oil and stuffed animals to families in need.

Captain Edward Goldner, commander of Company D, 3rd Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., said his Soldiers work with the Hamdiyah area Iraqi Police on a frequent basis,

training their counterparts to work independently once the U.S. military withdraws completely from Iraq. He said he is confident that the Iraqi Police will be able to conduct humanitarian assistance missions on their own in the future.

"The Hamdiyah IP chief, Lt. Col. Juma, has an excellent working relationship with the city council representative for the area," Capt. Goldner said. "These two leaders have a clear understanding of how to work together to execute an aid mission on their own."

Aside from providing security for the mission, Goldner's troops mostly met with the local residents and observed as the Hamdiyah police led the seemingly smooth humanitarian assistance operation.

"The Hamdiyah (Iraqi Police) are competent and capable of providing security for an event like this in the future," Capt. Goldner said.

Helping to prevent violence in Hamdiyah, the Iraqi police also handed out "TIP" cards, with phone numbers to call to report criminal activity, as an avenue toward a more secure and stable Iraq.

"Helping the citizens gives them hope that democracy can be successful, and helps them believe in the (Iraqi Security Forces)," Capt. Goldner said. "It's only with a combined effort between the citizens and the ISF that peace will be maintained in the country."



Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas

First Sergeant Chad Brown (right), of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division – Center, hands out stuffed animals Jan. 8 to children in Hamdiyah, Iraq, during a combined humanitarian assistance mission conducted by Hamdiyah area Iraqi Police and Soldiers with Company D, 3rd Bn., 15th Inf. Regt.

Vanguard Unit Ministry Team combats suicide, trains Soldiers

Matthew Burrell

4th AAB, 3rd ID, USD-C

AL ASAD, Iraq – In 2008, the suicide rate for servicemembers reached a record high. After four straight years of increased suicide rates the military decided to do something about the growing epidemic and adopted the ASIST – Applied Suicide Interventional Skills Training – program.

The two-day course took place for deployed 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 6-7.

"This is the most important course you will take in the military," said Staff Sgt. Arthur Woods, 4/3 AAB chaplain assistant noncommissioned officer in charge and brigade ASIST Instructor as he introduced the class. "There is no rank involved in this course."

The notion that Soldiers were participating in a civilian course was reinforced by a requirement that everyone wear nametags. Soldiers addressed officers by

their first names and vice versa.

"This is a very important part of the course," said Staff Sgt. Woods. "When people aren't thinking about rank or the potential consequences, they will be more apt to open up and share with the group."

The course began as Woods introduced some thought-provoking statistics on suicide in the United States.

"Prepare to be shocked," he said.

According to the 2005 statistics, of the 295 million people in the U.S. there were 32,637 reported suicides and an additional five to 25 percent unreported suicides that year.

The military, however, began to really take note in 2008, the first year in three decades that servicemembers exceeded civilian suicides. Woods has been very much involved with ASIST in the military since its inception. He has been teaching ASIST for the Army – in Iraq and stateside – for the past three years. He stresses that this isn't a course in suicide prevention

"The challenge is to directly intervene in a Soldier's life," explains Staff Sgt. Woods. "You have to be ready, willing, and able to do this. Would you be ready to save someone's life tomorrow?"

He emphasizes these three words: *Ready*: Are you ready to save a life? *Willing*: Are you willing to do what it takes?

Able: Are you able to apply these skills today or tomorrow or when someone needs help?

The purpose of the ASIST program is to give the Soldier the tools and resources to be able to successfully engage those in need of help. The rise of servicemembers committing suicide within the military directly correlates with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The stress of combat weighs heavily on a Soldier who is deployed to a combat zone.

Separation anxiety, workload, combat related stress, and financial problems are some of the tributaries that can lead to greater problems. When these issues pile up, it can lead a Soldier to start hav-

ing suicidal thoughts.

"Any stress can cause a Soldier to think of suicide," said Staff Sgt. Woods.

This is the seventh class Staff Sgt. Woods has taught during his deployment to Iraq. He has taught all the courses in Anbar province. And although he will be teaching classes in Iraq until April, he has already begun to plan for the important re-deployment period the Soldiers of 4/3 AAB will undergo when they return to Fort Stewart.

"We will have classes for the returning Soldiers," explained Staff Sgt. Woods, "but we really want to get military spouses to start taking the course. They're the first line of defense in suicide intervention."

The ASIST program is currently being taught on all military posts worldwide. There are more than two million trainers, civilian and military, who are certified to teach ASIST. Anyone is eligible to complete the two day course.

"It's like a journey that never ends," concluded Staff Sgt. Woods. "It's just saving one Soldier at a time."

COC _____ from Page 1A



Spc. Erik Anderson

During the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division's change of command ceremony at the National Infantry Museum's parade field, the commanders and colors of the 3rd HBCT stand at attention, Jan. 13.

Over the last year, he led the "Sledgehammer" Brigade on its fourth tour in support of Iraqi Freedom.

In his speech, he addressed his Soldiers for the final time.

"It has been the highlight of my career to have had the privilege to have served with you, he said. It is with all sincerity that I say to you now, 'Thank you.' Thank you for your professionalism, for your steadfastness, and for your loyalty. I am proud to have served as 'Hammer 6.'"

During the ceremony, the commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo praised Jones for his leadership and the accomplishments of his

brigade during his time in command.

"He (Johnson) is a seasoned commander that is perfectly suited for the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team," said Maj. Gen. Cucolo. The Johnson family are the right people, for the right unit, at the right time, he said.

Colonel Johnson's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with Silver and Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Good Conduct Medal with Second Award.

STOP LOSS

When RSLSP began on Oct. 21, 2009, the services estimated 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible for this benefit. Because the majority of those eligible had separated from the military, the services

have engaged in extensive and persistent outreach efforts over the past 14 months. Outreach efforts including direct mail, engaging military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets, will continue through March 4,

- from Page 1A

2011.
To apply for more information, or to gather more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to www. defense.gov/stoploss.

VANGUARD —

"The Iraqis have done a good job providing security at these sites," said 1st Lt. Hertier Diakabam, platoon leader with B Company. "The humanitarian aid helps out the populace a B Co. Effects noncom

The company facilitates about two CSSP humanitarian aid drops a month to the areas of Hit, Muhammadi, and Kubaysah. Local schools and government centers that have been identified for need are the recipients of the aid. In most cases the HA comes in the form of food provisions, according to Diakabam. The last drop in late December to the Women's Association of Hit highlighted the progress the Iraqis have made when planning and executing humanitarian aid. They delivered sewing machines to the Women's Association in Hit and residents of the city were allowed to come in and use the sewing machines to repair blankets, shirts, and blouses,

"They know how to identify, provide security; they pretty much got it," explained Staff Sgt. Stephen Couto, the B Co. Effects noncommissioned officer, "I get 10 to 15 small scale projects a month."

from Page 1A

As the U.S. military presence draws down in Iraq during Operation New Dawn, it is important that the Iraqis take a larger role in the execution of humanitarian aid missions like CSSP. So far, the Iraqis are doing exactly that.

Captain Devin Hammond, B Co. commanding officer, whose first tour to Iraq was in 2005, has seen firsthand the kind of growth the Iraqis have undergone in recent years. He remembers a time not so long ago that the roles were reversed.

"In my first tour, we provided security for the ISF on these HA drops," he said. "Now, the ISF looks out for us."



Matthew Burrel

Desks for the Athathib School are unloaded Jan. 5. Soldiers with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, provided the desks through the Commander's Small Scale Projects fund, a sublet of CERP.



Mortuary affairs drawing down

103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Thanks to a large decrease in the number of casualties in Iraq, United States Forces-Iraq has directed the closure of the Joint Base Balad Mortuary Affairs Collection Point. This still leaves three operational collection points in theater: Mosul for United States Division-North, Baghdad International Airport for USD-Central, and Tallil for USD-South.

The JBB MACP has been in operation since 2003, with the current facility built in 2008. The JBB MACP has evacuated hundreds of service members, coalition

forces, local nationals and third country nationals to the Theater Mortuary Evacuation Point, located at the Kuwait City International Airport.

The team here, led by Sgt. Erik Dexter with the 111th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), has been steadily shipping excess supplies and equipment out of JBB to the collection point in Afghanistan and the TMEP in Kuwait.

The JBB MACP has been the supply hub for all the MACPs in theater since 2004. For the last 10 weeks, the team has shipped more than 50 pallets-worth of supplies and equipment to Afghanistan and Kuwait where it is needed most.

"It's changed a lot since I was here in 2006," said Sgt. Dexter, a Bremerton, Wash., native. "The [operational tempo] from then to now is like night and day."

This is Sgt. Dexter's third time in theater operating a collection point. Two of his seven-Soldier team have deployed before. For the rest, this is their first time. Specialist Richard Soto of Moca, Puerto Rico, and Spc. Tyler Saini of Columbia, S.C., were both deployed with the 111th QM Co. in 2008/2009 to Arifjan, Kuwait, and Tallil, Iraq, respectively.

"Everyone on the team gave 110 percent in the closing of this operation,"

said Spc. Soto.

Private First Class Matthew Baker of Fairfax, Va., added that it took plenty of hard work. "Even though I've only done my actual MOS a few times, I've learned a lot," he added.

For Pvt. Ashley Oiterong from Koror, Palau, it's been "a good experience, because I was ready for war when I came, and it's been very different from what I expected."

As the team wraps up, cleans up and ships out, they are excited to go out and see something new. Some are going to relocate to the TMEP in Kuwait, and others may go to Afghanistan where, unfortunately, there's still a lot more to do.

Interpreter brothers reunited once again

103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)
Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER,

Iraq—A quarter century later, two brothers, both born in Iraq, after moving to the United States, found themselves back in Iraq, but this time as members of the U.S. Army.

Specialist Ammar Ameen, a linguist with 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a resident of San Diego, Calif., joined his younger brother, Spc. Bashar Ameen, a linguist with 4th Infantry Division, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher during the holidays.

The brothers were born in Baghdad, but moved to Libya when their mother started teaching English there from 1995 until 2003. After their mother's contract ended, they moved back to Baghdad where they stayed for five years.

Ammar went to college in Baghdad studying mechanical engineering, but soon found himself working with the United States Army as a translator for a special forces unit who operated out of Fallujah, Iraq. He said he had a choice: he could continue studying engineering or work as a translator. He said he chose to work as a translator because he took the test and passed.

Ammar said he was then moved to the International Zone in Baghdad and worked at a checkpoint with many units, including the 3rd Infantry Division, the 4th Infantry Division, and the 1st Cavalry Division. Both brothers worked for three years as translators, working with different units.

In 2008, both brothers moved to San Diego and joined the Army. Both he and his brother were able to move to the United States because they had worked for more than a year as a translator, and they had recommendations from a general, said Ammar.

"I was lucky to have the same unit with my brother during basic training and advanced individual training," said Ammar. "The Army tried to keep us together."

He said they both received deployment orders at the same time last May and deployed to Baghdad in June 2010. Both brothers worked as translators on the forward operating base, but were moved at the end of July.

Ammar went to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, and his brother, Bashar, went to COB Speicher.

"They tried to keep us together, but they couldn't with the drawdown," said Ammar. "Baghdad changed, it feels a lot more secure than before."

Ammar travels with 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's personal security detachment and works as the translator for the team. The team travels to the Baghdad area frequently.

At the request of Ammar's commander, Capt. Alphonso Harrell, the 512th Quartermaster Co.'s commander, and a native of Philadelphia, Ammar was able to travel to Speicher to see his brother for the holidays.

"Specialist Ammar Ameen has been a great asset



Courtesy Photo

Specialist Ammar Ameen (left) and Spc. Bashar Ameen (center), brothers born in Iraq, take a break for refreshments with friends. The Ameen brothers, who began as translators, joined the U.S. Army when they moved to San Diego.

to us since he came on board, and also came with a unique situation," said Harrell. "He was deployed with his brother who was placed at Speicher, so I felt the best way to show my appreciation for him and all he does, was to let him spend the holidays with his brother."

This past week, Ammar headed to COB Speicher on a short pass to spend time with his brother.